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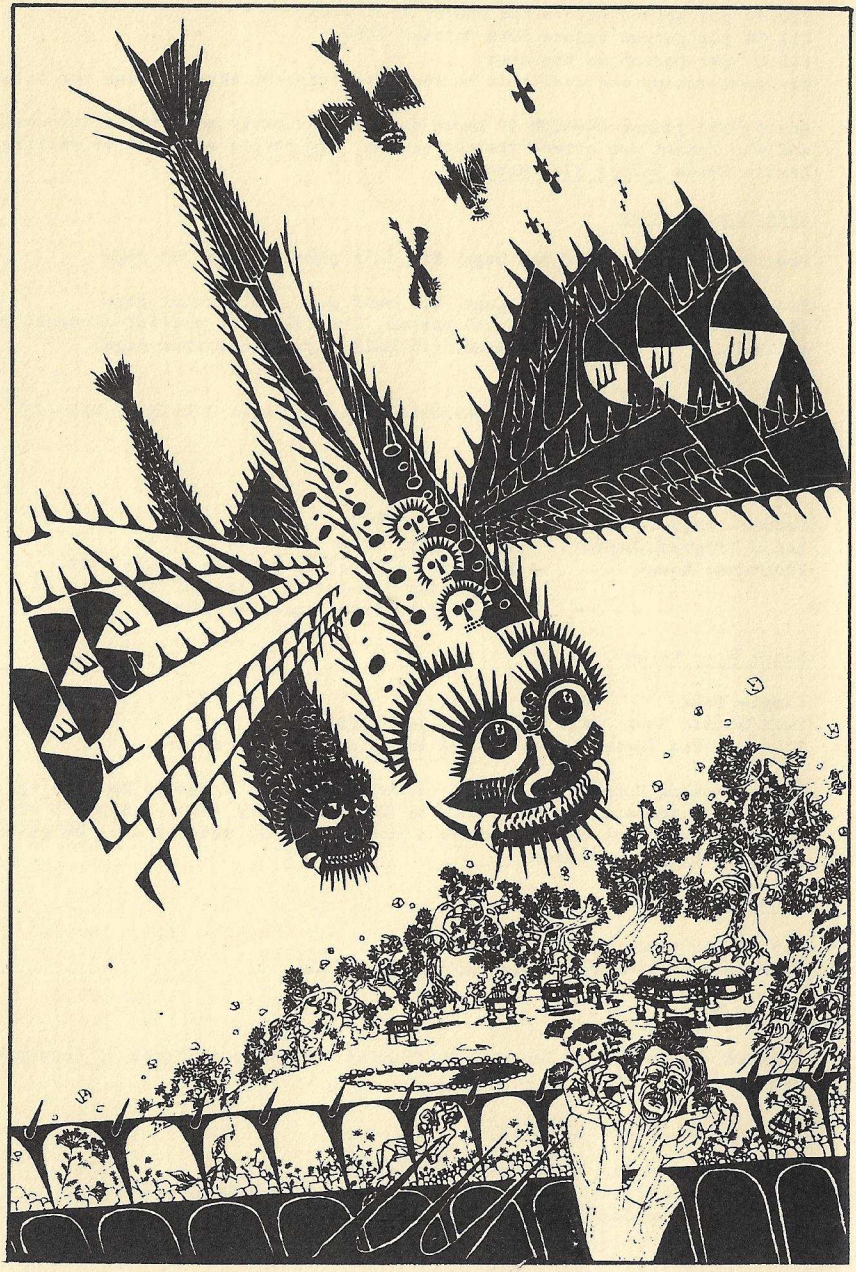


NOVACON 19 - Important Information

Membership Rates

£10.00 per person before the end of Eastercon
£12.00 per person before 30th October 1989
£15.00 per person on the door
Day memberships are available on request - contact Bernie Evans for details

Anyone who joined NOVACON 19 based on our previously advertised information, and who cannot now attend the convention, may obtain a refund by writing to Bernie Evans before 31st March

Advertising rates

Progress Reports: £28 per page, £14 half page, £7 quarter page

Programme Book: £36 per page, £18 half page, £9 quarter page
(for payment in advance of publication, the following special discount rates apply: £32 per page, £16 half page, £8 quarter page)

Send camera ready copy to:
Martin Tudor, 121 Cape Hill, Smethwick, Warley, West Midlands, B66 4SH
(Telephone: 021-558 0997)

Advertising and Copy Deadlines

Second Progress Report:	30th April 1989
Third Progress Report:	30th August 1989
Programme Book:	Space to be reserved by 30th August 1989 Copy (plus payment if discount taken) to be received by 30th September 1989

Hotel Room Rates

Single Room: £25 per night
Twin/Double Room: £20 per person per night
These prices include full English breakfast and VAT at 15%

Hotel Booking Forms will be sent out with the next Progress Report, which all NOVACON 19 members should receive by the end of May 1989; a deposit will be required from each person booking a room, and full details will be given in the next Progress Report

Book Room Rates

£15.00 per table for the weekend
Dealers must also be members of the convention

Creche Rates

Limited creche facilities will be free of charge to children of convention members

All Purpose Contact Address

For all convention enquiries please contact:
Bernie Evans, 7 Grove Avenue, Acocks Green, Birmingham, B27 7UY
Telephone (evenings): 021-707 6606

NOVACON 19

Here's our first Progress Report, which comes to you some two months later than planned. It has been delayed for a number of reasons - all of which, needless to say, have been beyond our control. See our Chairman's Introduction on the next page for a fuller explanation!

However, despite the lateness of this PR, we will stick with our plan to produce a total of three Progress Reports before the convention. The next one will be out at the end of May, and will feature work from last year's Nova Award winners as well as the usual run of important information and the hotel booking form. The next PR will be sent to members of NOVACON 19 only, so if you haven't signed up yet, better do it soon!

As is traditional with first Progress Reports for NOVACONs, the chairman of the previous year's convention gets to say a few words. So without further ado, let me pass you over to the dynamic Tony Berry!

Pam Wells

A few words on NOVACON 18, from the Outgoing Chairman

I'm happy to say that NOVACON 18 was a great success. The weekend was almost trouble free, and the programme ran on time! Thanks again to all concerned.

One problem that we did have was the issue of only one key for twin/double rooms. This was a last minute decision of the hotel which we could not change, and it annoyed just about everyone. The other, more serious, problem was the bar staff: there weren't enough of them, which meant that the Real Ale bar was unmanned for much of the time. Sorry about that, but the hotel should have known what to expect and provided accordingly. It meant that the available staff had to work twice as hard, and even the General Manager had a stint at washing up (aaah).

Meanwhile, I'm on this year's committee, where I've finally managed to get my hands on the money! Be seeing you.

Tony Berry

Now for a list of the Committee and Staff who are working on NOVACON 19, so that you know who we all are and what we're doing:

The Committee

Martin Tudor	Chairman & Hotel Liaison
Tony Berry	Treasurer
Helena Bowles	Programme
Bernie Evans	Memberships
Nick Mills	Operations
Pam Wells	Publications

The Staff (so far)

Vicky Evans	Creche
Nic Farey	Technical Operations
David Hardy	Art Show
Rog Peyton	Advertising & Book Room
Elinor Predota	Art Show Assistant
Richard Standage	Book Room Assistant
Stephen Tudor	Snooker Tournament

NOVACON 19 - Chairman's Introduction

Welcome to the first Progress Report on NOVACON 19! A little later than we would have liked, but better late than never, eh? I'm afraid that the delayed appearance of this PR was due to the fact that NOVACON has been forced to move again.

When we returned to the Royal Angus for NOVACON 17 we had hoped to remain there, especially as both NOVACONs 17 and 18 were so successful. Unfortunately it was not to be. Despite the fact that I started making approaches to the Royal Angus long before the last NOVACON, it wasn't until two weeks after the convention that the General Manager finally gave me his answer - it was "No!" He phrased it very pleasantly, of course, but it boiled down to the fact that, although he realised and appreciated the vast amount of business NOVACON brought to the hotel, they'd had to work too hard for their money! Mr Thirwell didn't believe his hotel could cope with the level of business a NOVACON entailed. Bernie Evans had a shot at dissuading him, but he would only consider hosting a NOVACON if the membership was limited to between 200 and 250 people. We considered this out of the question.

Luckily, because of the initial difficulty of getting a reply from the Royal Angus, I had already begun to make overtures to alternative hotels. However, I swiftly discovered that, due in no small part to the amount of business the NEC is now attracting (10,000 people one weekend, 30,000 the next, and so on), very few hotels were in a position to help us. Finally, having struck out at twelve other hotels, we discovered the Excelsior.

Fortunately the Excelsior is not only available but perfect for a NOVACON. All of the ample function space is on the ground floor (the Book Room, Art Show and Main Programme just a few feet away from each other), along with the comfortable Lounge Reception, a large Bar and a spacious Snooker Room with two full size tables. So far the hotel have been very helpful, and I have no doubt they will continue to be so.

But that is more than enough information on the venue; there will be plenty of time later to tell you more about the hotel, its facilities and the surrounding area. Now it's time to talk about the convention itself!

Firstly, a few words about the committee. Tony Berry, the NOVACON 19 Treasurer, you know already as he has chaired two previous NOVACONs. Helena Bowles, who is in charge of our Programme, will be a new name to many of you; she has the main advantage of being young and enthusiastic (and the disadvantage of being our 'token 19 year old), as well as the backing of an experienced committee. Bernie Evans is dealing with our Registrations, a job she knows inside out, having occupied the same position on NOVACONs 17 and 18 and FIFTEENCON (two of which she also chaired). Nick Mills, who worked on NOVACON 16 and the CONSPIRACY Fan Programme will be dealing with our Operations on the day. Finally, Pam Wells, a name new to NOVACONs but not to convention running, will be doing our Publications.

Our theme is 'The Music, the Science and the Fiction of the Sixties,' which is admittedly a fairly tall order to cram into one convention, but we will be doing our best. The idea of the theme first came up during a pre-committee drink when several people tried to define when 'the Sixties' began and ended. One year mentioned as being the year in which they ended was 1971, thus 'proving' that the birth of NOVACON marked the death of the Sixties... The

more we talked about the idea, the more enthusiastic we became. So much happened during 'the Sixties' in so many fields - New Wave SF, genetics, space travel, psychadelia, synthesizers...the list is almost endless, but we will be covering as much as is possible in our (hopefully) innovative programme.

Last but by no means least is our Guest of Honour, Geoff Ryman. In fandom Geoff is probably better known for his superb stage presentations, such as THE TRANSMIGRATION OF TIMOTHY ARCHER at the first MEXICON. But as Geoff is also an equally superb published writer, I hope you will all take this opportunity to familiarise yourselves with some of the excellent work he has had published, such as his two novels THE UNCONQUERED COUNTRY and THE WARRIOR WHO CARRIED LIFE. In my opinion, Geoff is a perfect GoH for a NOVACON, both as professional writer and fan; I'm sure you will agree.

Martin Tudor

The Creche

We will again be providing limited creche facilities this year.

As at NOVACONs 17 and 18, the creche will be organised by Vicky Evans, and it will be completely free of charge.

As Vicky gives her time voluntarily, thus enabling us to provide the facilities in the first place, we would appreciate it if you could remember the following points:

1. Vicky does need to take a break, and also has a job to do, so the creche will be open at specified times. As we don't know at this stage what hours she will be working that weekend, we cannot advise these times in advance. The times will be given at the convention in your programme notes.

2. Parents who avail themselves of the creche will be expected to volunteer a little of their time to help out. You may not be called upon to help, but a small pool of willing volunteers is a necessity.

3. It would be helpful if you could bring along a few favourite toys, clearly labelled with your child's name - partly because your child will settle better with a familiar toy, and partly because we are a little limited in what we can provide ourselves!

4. If your child is in nappies PLEASE ensure that you bring spares, preferably disposable ones (including the one that the child is wearing when you leave him or her in the creche!).

Vicky tells me that she has enjoyed providing the creche: "I wouldn't be doing it again if I didn't!". So please help us to help you have a good con by remembering these few simple points.

By the way, the hotel will be providing us with a bed and a cot in the creche.

Bernie Evans

Guest of Honour GEOFF RYMAN

Our Guest of Honour - Geoff Ryman:
An Introduction by Kate Jeary

In the year 1979, I and other members of the erstwhile Leeds Group entered the dodgy business of conrunning, on the grounds that we couldn't possibly be worse than all the preceding people who had attempted the same; and that, even if we were, we could at least try and enjoy ourselves. During the ensuing committee and group meetings, I heard a lot about a place called Lumb Bank, where it seemed aspiring writers were wont to foregather; and even more about a very tall Canadian writer encountered there, who had this strange predilection for cooking. (You have to understand that the Leeds group, at this time mostly male, was more noted for its eating than its cooking propensities. Things changed later.) There is nothing more exasperating than constantly hearing about someone you haven't met, and so I was very glad when he actually turned up to YORCON 1. Great, I thought, and then as I neared him in the flesh I began to have second thoughts - was it my imagination, or did he seem to be getting taller and taller? When I finally stood next to him I realised that, no, this was no optical illusion, he was actually giving me a crick in the neck. It is not what a self-respecting female of 5'8" is used to, but I have had to become accustomed to it over the years, since Geoff hasn't got any shorter, and the only way I expand these days is sideways.

In the year 1989 I now find myself, somewhat to my surprise, in the position of having to write about Geoff and, as with anyone that you have known for a long time, it's actually difficult to think what to write. Should I mention Geoff's rise to critical fame and his growing list of SF awards? No, that's more the type of thing for FOUNDATION or INTERZONE, not a NOVACON report. I could say that one of the few occasions in my life when I was nearly rendered speechless was when I got my hands on THE WARRIOR WHO CARRIED LIFE and realised that this was what Geoff had been talking about when he spoke of his attempts to write a downmarket sword and sorcery novel. If this classic was downmarket, what on earth was Geoff going to write when he went upmarket?

I could mention the play he put on for YORCON 3, or the Philip K Dick dramatisation he did for Worldcon - which was for me, and I think many others, one of the best parts of the convention. I could mention his well-remembered appearance in SPOCK IN MANACLES, a piece of fannish legend which will surely be retold to the as yet unborn. I could mention his firm commitment to the YORCON 2 film programme, when everyone else (particularly me) seemed to be running around in circles. I will mention his friendliness and very real concern for others, especially his lack of arrogance. Being a rising author can sometimes, very clearly, be no fun at all at conventions. I could mention his touching faith in me when driving around Oxford. Geoff had this funny idea that, since I had a licence, I could tell him what he was doing wrong when he made a mistake. I spent most of that weekend being ferried around with my eyes closed. I could mention dragging him to a number of terrible films (yes, CONAN THE BARBARIAN included) and the fine critical mind he brought to bear on what could have been done to redeem the unredeemable. Oh, have I mentioned it? Well, I won't again.

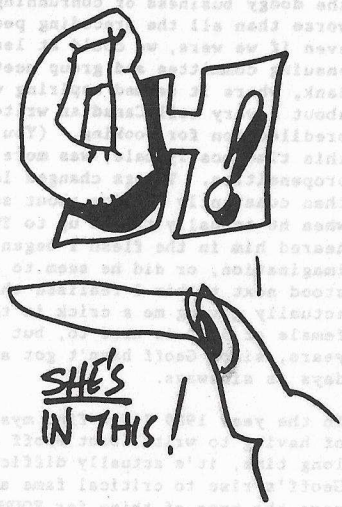
Suffice it to say, firstly, that I am extremely glad that the present NOVACON committee has invited him, since he will be an impeccable Guest of Honour; and secondly, that he has accepted the invitation. A NOVACON is one of those occasions during which someone who is as much celebrated for his contributions to fannish life as for being an author can comfortably relax and enjoy himself. About time! See you there...

Kate Jeary

The Programme

As Martin will have already explained, the theme of this year's NOVACON is 'The Music, the Science and the Fiction of the Sixties'. As this is something of a departure from the norm, I feel that the programme should be equally as unusual and, hopefully, as interesting.

Much of the Main Programme will have a sixties slant, and the Film Programme has been carefully chosen to fit in with the three main components of our theme. In conjunction with the Film Programme, we hope to have a TV room showing episodes from various sixties SF or semi-SF shows - offers of videos gratefully received.



We have several ideas waiting to be looked at for the Main Programme. Having said that, it's all very well for the rest of the committee and myself to decide what we want to see - what do YOU want to see? Yes, it's the age old cry of the Programme Official: "We want yer ideas..."

It's become something of a cliche that when attending a convention the programme is not very high on one's list of priorities - in fact, it's way down below good bar hours, good beer, crash space, good hotel, cheap food, etc... Fair enough, but if convention programming is that uninspiring, don't you think it's as much your fault as the committee's? So tell us - what do YOU want to see? We'll do our best, but ultimately it comes down to this: you tell us what you have to offer or what you would like us to organise.

Do you have videos we could use in the TV room? Is there something you'd really like to see there? Do you have sixties-related material we could display?

Were you active in the sixties? What were you doing? What was happening? Would you be willing to talk about it?

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS? If so, just TELL ME.

Helena Bowles

Snooker Tournament

In an attempt to recapture the spirit of halcyon days (i.e. the thrills and excitement of the pool and darts tournaments at NOVACONs 15 and 16) whilst making good use of the two full-sized snooker tables we have access to at the Excelsior, Stephen Tudor has offered to organise a snooker tournament.

Stephen informs us that it will be a 'six ball sudden death' tournament, which translation revealed to mean that you only have to sink six red balls and all the colours more quickly and profitably than your opponent to win. The later rounds of the tournament may be extended to ten ball or even full games, depending on the number of entries and the time available. The decision of the Tournament Co-Ordinator, Stephen Tudor, will be final.

There will be a 'lavish' prize for the overall winner of the tournament, as well as lesser (but equally stunning!) prizes for either the highest six ball and ten ball breaks OR (let's be optimistic here) the FIRST person to get a six ball maximum break (of 75) and the first person to get a ten ball maximum break (of 107).

To enter the tournament, all you have to do is to complete the entry form enclosed with this Progress Report and send it to Stephen Tudor, c/o 121 Cape Hill, Smethwick, Warley, West Midlands, B66 4SH. In addition, you will be required to pay £1.00 to Stephen at the convention before starting your opening game. So, what are you waiting for? Enter already!

Martin Tudor

Just a reminder that the all-purpose contact address for any correspondence to NOVACON 19, except where otherwise stated, is Bernie Evans, 7 Grove Avenue, Acocks Green, Birmingham, B27 7UY

The Nova Awards

In 1973, the late Gillon Field created the Nova Award for fanzines produced by Science Fiction Fandom. Until 1981, it was presented annually at NOVACON to the editor of the fanzine voted 'best of the year'. After that date, two additional Nova Awards were awarded - to the Fanwriter and Fanartist voted 'best of the year' - and this trio of awards has been presented annually at NOVACONs ever since.

The Nova Award winners at NOVACON 18 were:

Best Fanzine	LIP, edited by HAZEL ASHWORTH
Best Fanwriter	MICHAEL ASHLEY
Best Fanartist	D WEST

For a fanzine to qualify at NOVACON 19, one or more issues must have appeared between 1st October 1988 and 30th September 1989. For fanwriters and fanartists to qualify, a piece of writing or artwork by the person concerned must have been published in a fanzine for the first time between 1st October 1988 and 30th September 1989. For the purposes of this award, a 'fanzine' is defined as an amateur publication which is concerned with Science Fiction, Fantasy, Science Fiction and Fantasy Fans and/or related subjects, and copies of which may be generally obtained in exchange for other amateur publications or in response to letters of comment.

The fundamental idea of the Nova Awards is that they should be awarded by informed vote. Informed votes come from informed voters, and for the purposes of the awards these are defined as any member of NOVACON 19, provided he or she has been active in fanzines in the British Isles during the year 1st October 1988 to 30th September 1989. The term 'active in fanzines' is a bit harder to define, but the current definition states that voters must have received SIX or more fanzines during the course of the relevant year. Fanzines in this context means different publications, and NOT different issues of the same fanzine. The various official organs of a group or society will not be treated as different fanzines for the purpose of this rule.

NOVACON 18 saw a record-equalling number of ballots cast by the members, with 55 eligible voting forms being received and counted by the Nova Committee. This is a positive indication that the Nova Awards are in good health, and I hope that we can collect even more ballots at NOVACON 19. I'd like to thank everyone who voted, for your participation and interest in these awards.

The awards themselves are made annually by Ray Bradbury of the BSFG, and we would like to thank him for all his time and effort in creating such beautiful awards for the winners to keep each year.

Future Progress Reports will feature work by the NOVACON 18 award winners. I also plan to include a brief discussion of some of the fanzines, writers and artists who will be eligible for the NOVACON 19 awards.

If you would like to ensure that your fanzine is listed in our final Progress Report before the convention, please send a copy to me at the address below.

Pam Wells, Nova Awards Administrator
24A Beech Road, Bowes Park, London, N11 2DA

The Members

1 Geoff Ryman
2 Martin Tudor
3 Bernie Evans
4 Tony Berry
5 Pam Wells
6 Helena Bowles
7 Nick Mills
8 Rog Peyton
9 Chris Baker
10 Dave Holmes
11 Dave Cox
12 Richard James
13 Doreen Rogers
14 Phil Rogers
15 Norman Shorrock
16 Wendy McDonald
17 Mike Richardson
18 Christopher F O'Shea II
19 Roger Robinson
20 Peter Smith
21 Jonathan C Salmon
22 George Ternent
23 Linda Ternent
24 Andy Morris
25 Mike Scott
26 Alison Scott
27 Gerry Webb
28 1/2r Cruttenden
29 Margaret Austin
30 Martin Easterbrook
31 Kate Wright
32 Tim Broadribb
33 Anthony Mittenshaw-Hodge
34 Chris Mittenshaw-Hodge
35 Phil Spencer
36 Martin Stallard
37 Julian Headlong
38 Pat Brown
39 Vernon Brown
40 Mike Stone
41 Colin Langeveld
42 Marcus L Rowland
43 Howard Rosenblum
44 June Rosenblum
45 Colin Fine
46 Nigel Robson
47 Linda-Anne Parkin
48 Nigel Robson
49 John Harold
50 John Perry
51 Chris Jennings
52 Susan Chamberlain
53 Rich Fox
54 James Steel
55 Mike Gould
56 Tim Illingworth
57 Stan Eling
58 Helen Eling
59 Alex Stewart
60 John F Dowd
61 Gwen Funnell
62 Peter Wareham
63 Roger Perkins
64 Peter Mabey
65 Larry Van Der Putte
66 Ian Sorensen
67 Brian Ameringen
68 John Steward
69 Paul Dormer
70 Chris Morgan
71 Pauline Morgan
72 Stephen Davies
73 Dave Langford
74 Hazel Langford
75 Malcolm Reid
76 Maureen Porter
77 Paul Kincaid
78 Bruce Saville
79 Pete Weston
80 Patrick Curzon
81 Dave Ellis
82 Ann Looker
83 Patrick Lawford
84 Rob Meades
85 Susan Francis
86 Lynn Edwards
87 Adrian Snowdon
88 Freda Warrington
89 Owen Whiteoak
90 Dave Hodson
91 Noelle Hall
92 Niall Gordon
93 Alan Sullivan
94 Dave Thomas
95 Steve Linton
96 Bob Shaw
97 Martin Hoare
98 Susan Booth
99 Robert Day
100 Jean Sheward
101 Kev McVeigh
102 Paul Treadaway
103 Steve Jones
104 Mick Evans
105 Alice Kohler
106 Iain M Banks
107 Caroline Mullan
108 Mandy Dakin
109 Dave Hardy
110 Mark Meenan
111 Robert Sneddon
112 Steve Lawson
113 Alice O'Donnell
114 Greg Pickersgill
115 Linda Pickersgill
116 Steve Green
117 Ann Green
118 William McCabe
119 Martin Reed
120 Elizabeth Reed
121 Nic Farey
122 Stephen Tudor
123 Mike Westhead
124 Kathy Westhead
125 Peter Baker
126 Dave Mooring
127 Sarah Dibb

Bits and Pieces
Outgoing Chairman's Bit by Tony Berry
Novacon 19 Chairman's Piece and Snooker Tournament Bit by Martin Tudor
Piece about the Programme by Helena Bowles
Bit about the Creche by Bernie Evans
Piece about Geoff Ryman by Kate Jeary (thanks to Geoff Ryman for the photo)
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NOVACON

17 - 19 November 1989

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